

*Department of Economics & Finance  
College of Business  
Texas A&M University-Commerce*

**FIN 404 – Advanced Financial Management  
Fall 2016**

Instructor: Dror Parnes, Ph.D.

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Class Hours: Any day – Online course

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### **Course Description and Objectives**

This online course provides undergraduate students with a rigorous introduction to the fundamental principles of finance. The primary concepts covered include the time value of money, principles of valuation and risk, the nature and characteristics of domestic and international financial securities and markets. Specific applications include the valuation of debt and equity securities and capital budgeting analysis.

### **Prerequisites**

FIN 304 (minimum grade C) and basic knowledge of Calculus, Statistics, and Accounting

### **Textbook**

“Analysis for Financial Management” (11th Edition), By: Robert C. Higgins (McGraw Hill Ed.)

 We will not strictly follow this textbook. There are topics in the course that somewhat deviate from the book. The textbook can be used as a further reading material, but all you need for the course is my Power Point slides, my practice questions and answers already posted, and my recorded lectures.

### **Exams and Grading**

There will be 3 online exams during the course. Each one will last for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Each contains 12 multiple choice questions (8.333 points each question, 100 points altogether). These relatively short exams will cover the most recent lectures, and they will be non-cumulative. Once you start an exam, you have to complete it within the allowable time. Make sure to have a fast Internet connection. Since you will take the exams online at your convenience (only on the designated dates), there will be no makeup exams.

## **Course Content and Communication**

All communications will take place through TAMUC official website.

## **Grading System**

Your final grade will be based on a simple average of the 3 exams during the course. Once this average is computed, I will assign a final grade according to: 'A' (from 90 to 100), 'B' (from 80 to 90), 'C' (from 70 to 80), 'D' (from 60 to 70), 'F' (less than 60). *There will be no more optional bonus points or mercy assignments, so make sure to do your best on these exams!*

 We will use a lot of calculus and statistical methods during the course. I will attempt to clarify these techniques when it is relevant, yet I can only do that concisely. Make sure to refresh your memory with those techniques. The best time to do that is yesterday!

## **Attendance and general behavior**

This is an online course and students must have high self-discipline. It is your responsibility to listen to the online lectures, to download the Power Point presentations and the practice questions and answers, and to take as many notes as you can. If you have additional questions, catch my attention right away (likely through email or phone), or come to discuss it over office hours, but please don't wait until the last moment before the exams.

## **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a Federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Gee Library Room 132

Phone: (932) 886 – 5150 or (932) 886 – 5835

Email: [Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu)

## **Scholastic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the university. Any student, who attempts to gain an unfair advantage over other students by cheating, will fail the course and be reported to Texas A&M University-Commerce. "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment" Student Handbook.

## **Nondiscrimination Statement**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all Federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## **Campus Concealed Carry**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **Technology Requirements**

Please note that personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely manner. To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. For Mac users, the most updated Firefox is recommended.

Please check that you have access to broadband Internet with enough cash memory and a sound card (speakers or headset and a microphone) on your computer / laptop. Also check that you have the latest version of Java (32 and 64 bit). In addition, current anti-virus software and supporting tools such as Adobe Reader and Adobe Flash Player should be installed and kept up to date. Finally, you should enable popups.

Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. If you do not have Microsoft Office installed, you can check with the bookstore for a student copy.

For additional information about system requirements, please visit:  
<https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

You may also get technical support by contacting [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org).

## Suggested Class Schedule

Date	Class	Topic
Aug. 30	1	Introduction to the course, Review of some statistical methods, Introduction to Financial Management
Sep. 6	2	Financial Statements & Ratio Analysis, The Time Value of Money
Sep. 13	3	Risk and Rates of Return
Sep. 20	4	Risk and Rates of Return
Sep. 27	5	<b>Exam #1</b>
Oct. 4	6	Bonds
Oct. 11	7	Bonds
Oct. 18	8	Equity Valuation
Oct. 25	9	Capital Budgeting Decision Criteria, The Cost of Capital
Nov. 1	10	<b>Exam #2</b>
Nov. 8	11	Options
Nov. 15	12	Options
Nov. 22	13	Options
Nov. 29	14	Review
Dec. 6	15	<b>Exam #3</b>

 The schedule is due to possible changes.  
Good luck...